

RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

www.rhinoresourcecenter.com

NEWSLETTER #44 SEPTEMBER 2016

Dear colleagues and friends,

This is the 44th issue of the quarterly e-newsletter of the Rhino Resource Center. Edited by Dr Kees Rookmaaker.

The total number of references in the collection of the RRC now stands at **20,510**. This is an increase of 250 items in the last quarter. **Over 20,000 references are available as PDF on RRC website**



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The Rhino Resource Center is a Charity (Registered KvK Utrecht 30185802)
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WORLD RHINO DAY

World Rhino Day is celebrated on September 22 every year! This special day provides the opportunity for cause-related organizations, NGOs, zoos, and members of the public to celebrate rhinos in their own unique ways.

Here is more information about how to participate:

<http://www.worldrhinoday.org/>

Of course, the RRC supports all events by making information about rhinos available around the world to anybody interested in rhinos.



THE JOYS OF PUBLISHING – AND ADVICE NEEDED

Over the past years I have been working on a general review of the historical changes in the distribution of the rhinoceros in the South Asian countries – India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan. It is now in the final stages and I am looking for a publisher who is brave enough to produce a book which may make little profit, needs several nice illustrations and ideally should be available in some format to field workers in the region. Any advice is welcome.

As part of this work I need to produce maps showing the regional distribution of rhinos. New maps need to be made, which need probably some specialised knowledge of software or map making programs. Any assistance is welcome.

Kees Rookmaaker



PACHYDERM 57 PUBLISHED

<http://www.pachydermjournals.org/index.php/pachy/issue/view/21> - free online

Pachyderm

July 2015–June 2016

Number 57



A new issue of PACHYDERM, JOURNAL OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT, AFRICAN RHINO AND ASIAN RHINO SPECIALIST GROUPS, is now available.

The editor Suzannah Goss has been at the helm of the small team of specialist editors, Deborah Gibson for elephants and Kees Rookmaaker for rhinos, to produce another well-produced issue. Pachyderm is peer-reviewed and publishes papers on rhino conservation. We tend to attract submissions from field workers whose work otherwise might only be available in less well-known regional journals. Pachyderm serves a small but vibrant community. Funding restricts the number of issues, and it is a real concern when we think of the continuation of this vital medium of information exchange.

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- Belcher, S., 2016. Javan rhino in Ujung Kulon National Park. *Pachyderm 57*: cover, i
- Knight, M.H., 2016. African Rhino Specialist Group report. *Pachyderm 57*: 12-42
- Talukdar, B.K., 2016. Asian Rhino Specialist Group report. *Pachyderm 57*: 43-47
- Vigne, L., 2016. Ivory and religious statues in the Philippines today. *Pachyderm 57*: 48-56
- Martin, E.B.; Vigne, L., 2016. Macau's elephant and mammoth ivory trade today. *Pachyderm 57*: 78-85
- Hariyadi, A.R.S.; Sajuthi, D.; Astuti, D.A.; Alikodra, H.S.; Maheshwari, H., 2016. Analysis of nutrition quality and food digestibility in male Javan rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sondaicus*) in Ujung Kulon National Park. *Pachyderm 57*: 86-96
- Okita-Ouma, B. (et al.), 2016. Preliminary indications of the effect of infrastructure development on ecosystem connectivity in Tsavo National Parks, Kenya. *Pachyderm 57*: 109-111
- Patton, F.; Campbell, P.; Genade, A., 2016. The development of white rhino social organisation at Ziwa Rhino Sanctuary. *Pachyderm 57*: 112-113
- Kundu, S.; Menon, V., 2016. Possible sighting of a twin Greater one-horned Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros unicornis*) in Jaldapara National Park, India. *Pachyderm 57*: 115-116
- Rookmaaker, L.C., 2016. On the alleged presence of the two-horned Sumatran rhinoceros and the one-horned Javan rhinoceros in the himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. *Pachyderm 57*: 116-117
- Patton, F.; Ammann, K., 2016. From health to wealth - understanding the trade in rhino horn. *Pachyderm 57*: 122-124
- Goss, C., 2016. Garamba - the price of conservation (book review). *Pachyderm 57*: 136-138
- WWF Kenya, 2016. Embracing new technology to enhance rhino and elephant monitoring in Mara Landscape, Kenya. *Pachyderm 57*: 131-132
- Save the Rhino, 2016. Save the Rhino International: Recent initiatives. *Pachyderm 57*: 132-133
- Ebedes, S., 2016. Obituary - Dr Hymie Ebedes. *Pachyderm 57*: 139



THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S RHINOS

Annual reports by the respective Chairpersons of the IUCN/SSC African Rhino and Asian Rhino Specialists Groups are published in the journal *Pachyderm*. These are very important and enlightening papers which often present the best and latest figures of populations around the world. They can be accessed [here \(African\)](#) or [here \(Asian\)](#). Recently, all available data have been expertly summarized to provide background to the CITES conference by a number of authors, [found here](#). Well worth reading.

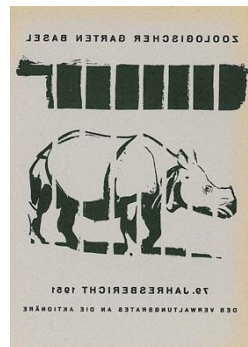
THE NEXT CITES MEETING

24 September to 4 October 2016 – Johannesburg, South Africa

<https://cites.org/cop17>

CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) is an international agreement between governments. The Conference of the Parties is scheduled every few years, and the next one is soon. These meetings are of great importance to regulate the trade in endangered species.

Save the Rhino International has put together a guide of what Cites means for rhino conservation, which you can find [here \(click\)](#).



RHINOS IN ZOOS

www.worldrhino.com

Gabriele Sani has started a website on which she hopes to provide information about all rhinos in zoos. At the moment there is information about every black rhino in European zoos. The aim is to arise consciousness on the terrible crisis faced by rhinos all over the world because of poaching and loss of habitat. The final aim would be that zoos themselves could send us information about pregnancy/movements of rhinos.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Go and visit SINGAPORE in November to attend:

15th Elephant & Rhino Conservation and Research Symposium

Singapore Zoo, 14-18 November 2016

Presented by International Elephant Foundation and International Rhino Foundation

For more information, call of papers, [click here](#).

And if the diary is already filling up, add this event next year:

Rhino Keepers Workshop

Presented by the International Rhino Keepers Association

Hosted by Denver Zoo on 7-11 August 2017.



THE GENETICS OF THE GENUS CERATOTHERIUM

Eric Harley et al. have published the results of a new study of the DNA of the white rhinoceros to compare the populations in southern (SWR) and central Africa (NWR). On the basis of a relatively small sample, it is estimated that the two populations diverged between 0.46 and 0.97 million years. This would be indicative of subspecific separation. This is in contrast with the 2010 study by Colin Groves et al., based largely on morphological evidence, which postulated the divergence to be a little older at ca. 1 million years ago. Groves et al. concluded that the two populations represent separate species, *Ceratotherium simum* of Southern Africa and *C. cottoni* of Central Africa. Harley et al. advocate the traditional view that the forms are subspecies known as *C.s.simum* and *C.s.cottoni*.

Subspecies are, in principle, geographic divisions of a species. If two allopatric populations have individuals which are diagnosable, their status as subspecies or species often depends on the opinion of the expert taxonomists working on the group. There may well be changes when the definitions of species change: in the time of Linnaeus there was only one African rhino, in the time of J.E. Gray in the mid-19th century there were scores of African rhino species, which afterwards might have changed status (Rookmaaker 2015).

It is remarkable that Groves et al. felt that “the recognition of the northern form as a distinct species has profound implications for its conservation”, while Harley et al. feel that it “creates a problem for conservation, because whereas crossing subspecies together for a genuine conservation purpose is deemed acceptable, crossing species is generally considered unacceptable.” Both groups of researchers have science on their side, have conservation at heart, but ended up with totally opposing ends of a scale.

I have long argued that the taxonomy of the black rhinoceros needs to be revisited. It may never happen in an age where funding for pure taxonomy is hard to find. I will now also argue that the taxonomy of the white rhinoceros needs to be the subject of a wide-ranging study encompassing morphology, distribution, paleontology, ecology, as well as conservation issues. Maybe, with the impending extinction of the northern form this is academic, but possibly much can be learned which will make our conservation efforts more focused and more profitable.



Groves, C.P.; Fernando, P.; Robovsky, J., 2010. The sixth rhino: a taxonomic re-assessment of the critically endangered northern white rhinoceros. PLoS One 5 (4) e9703: 1-15.

Harley, E.H.; De Waal, M.; Murray, S.; O’Ryan, C., 2016. Comparison of whole mitochondrial genome sequences of northern and southern white rhinoceroses (*Ceratotherium simum*): the conservation consequences of species definitions. Conservation Genetics 2016 (early view): 1-7 – [doi:10.1007/s10592-016-0861-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10592-016-0861-2)

Rookmaaker, L.C., 2015. Rhino systematics in the times of Linnaeus, Cuvier, Gray and Groves. In: Behie, A.M. & Oxenham, M.F. (eds) Taxonomic Tapestries: The threads of evolutionary, behavioural and conservation research. Canberra, ANU Press, pp. 299-319, figs. 1-10.



OUR SPONSORS

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We receive regular donations from Save the Rhino International and Rhino Carhire.



[SAVE THE RHINO](http://WWW.SAVETHERRHINO.ORG)



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We are grateful to all individuals who show their appreciation by their donation.
Thank you very much.

*The Rhino Resource Center is a registered charity.
We need your assistance to provide our service to all rhino lovers worldwide.*



CONTENTS OF THE RHINO RESOURCE CENTER

The development of the Rhino Resource Center is shown in the table here.

RRC	2015 Sept	2015 Dec	2016 March	2016 June	2016 Sept	ANNUAL INCREASE
References	19,634	19,850	20,020	20,250	20,511	+ 877
PDF files	19,313	19,546	19,754	20,000	20,209	+ 896
Images	3,613	3,628	3,755	3,800	3,831	+ 218
Members	2,482	2,567	2,689	2,924	3,016	+ 534

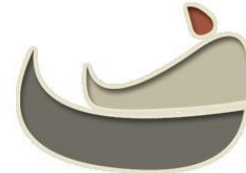
I thank everybody who has helped us by sending copies of books and papers.

All contributions are [acknowledged on the website](#).








DONATIONS TO THE RRC

It is really very easy. No problem to the audience of the RRC. To show appreciation of our work and to make future contents even better, a small donation goes a long way. Visits to libraries are no longer necessary, just think of the expensive time gained and research results improved. The button leads to a page with instructions.







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The Rhino Resource Center is an essential tool for

-  Information and image supply to media
-  Academic research in biology, conservation studies, art history
-  Education in primary, secondary and tertiary levels
-  Conservation of rhinos both *in-situ* and *ex-situ*
-  Latest information supply of all rhino-related projects
-  Information on all the latest conservation efforts
-  All the historical and most current literature.

YES, YOU CAN HELP:

-  Authors of books, papers and reports can send us a copy after publication.
-  We are always looking for images of all rhinos in books and in the wild
-  We aim to include a picture of every rhino ever kept in captivity
-  Contribute a message to our blog and get into contact with others
-  Place a link on your website to the RRC which will be reciprocated
-  Give us a DONATION when you feel the RRC has helped your work.



NEW LITERATURE (finalized 30 August 2016)

In this quarter (June to August 2016), we have added 261 new references, to bring the total number of items in the database to **20,511**.

Of these, 20,209 or 98.8 percent are available as PDF and searchable.

Below I have listed new entries published in the 21st century in four categories: General (all species), African rhinos, Asian rhinos and Fossil rhinos.

For this quarter, I have added a section relating to Trade and Poaching in view of the reports generated to underpin the forthcoming CoP17 of CITES.

**This quarter saw the publication of some pivotal papers and reports,
all well worth the attention for anybody interested in rhinos.**

Search for them on the RRC, it's easy.

Always check the [RRC website](#) first, many papers are available there.

NEW PUBLICATIONS ON TRADE

Brown, K.; Heinrich, D., 2014. White rhino horn: a case for legalization of trade. Report to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, pp. 1-14.

CITES - Swaziland, 2016. Proposal to 17th meeting of the Conference of the Parties: To alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland's White Rhino, adopted at the 13th Conference of Parties in 2004, so as to permit a limited and regulated trade in White Rhino horn which has been collected in the past from natural deaths, or recovered from poached Swazi rhino, as well as horn to be harvested in a non-lethal way from a limited number of White Rhino in the future in Swaziland. Report to CITES CoP17 Prop.7: pp. 1-2.

CITES Secretariat, 2016. Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Consideration of proposals for amendment of appendices I and II: To alter the existing annotation on the Appendix II listing of Swaziland's white rhino. Report to CITES CoP17 Prop. 7: pp. 1-6.

CITES Secretariat, 2016. Seventeenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties. Species-specific matters: Rhinoceroses (Rhinocerotidae). Report to CITES CoP17 Doc.68: pp. 1-24.

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- Huebschle, A., 2016. Security coordination in an illegal market: the transnational trade in rhinoceros horn. *Politikon* 2016: 1-22.
- Lee, T.E.; Roberts, D.L., 2016. Devaluing rhino horns as a theoretical game. *Ecological Modelling* 337: 73-78



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Publications on Trade – continued

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- Rademeyer, J., 2016. Beyond borders: crime, conservation and criminal networks in the illicit rhino horn trade. Part 2 of a 2-part investigation into rhino horn trafficking in Southern Africa. Johannesburg, The Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime, pp. 1-44.
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- Reuter, E., 2014. Keeping the horn on the rhino: A case study of a comprehensive multi-stakeholder framework to counter poaching threats. Ph.D. thesis presented to the University of Bochum, pp. 1-83.
- Roe, D.; Biggs, D.; Dublin, H.; Cooney, R., 2016. Engaging communities to combat illegal wildlife trade: a theory of change. IIED (International Institute for Environment and Development) Briefing Paper 2016: 1-4.
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NEW GENERAL PUBLICATIONS

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- Talukdar, B.K., 2016. Asian Rhino Specialist Group report. *Pachyderm* 57: 43-47.
- Williams, C.; Tubbs, C., 2016. Investigating gut microbial communities in two species of rhinoceros. Proceedings of Conference: Gut Microbiology, at Clermont-Ferrand, France July 2016: 1.

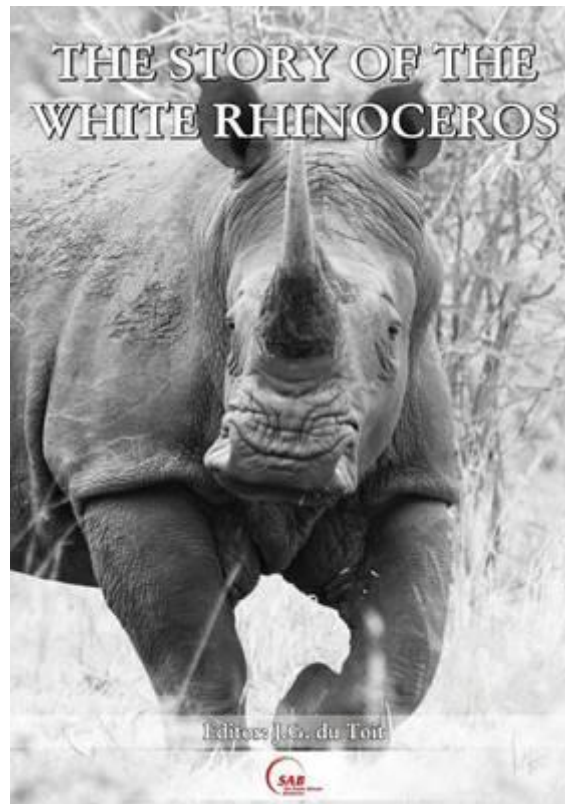


NEW PUBLICATIONS ON AFRICAN RHINOS

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- Clark, J.V., 2016. The barefoot game rancher from Zululand. In Du Toit, J.G. *The story of the white rhinoceros*. Krugersdorp, pp. 125-131.
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- Du Toit, J.G., 2016. Local communities as rhinoceros ranchers. In Du Toit, J.G. *The story of the white rhinoceros*. Krugersdorp, pp. 66-70.
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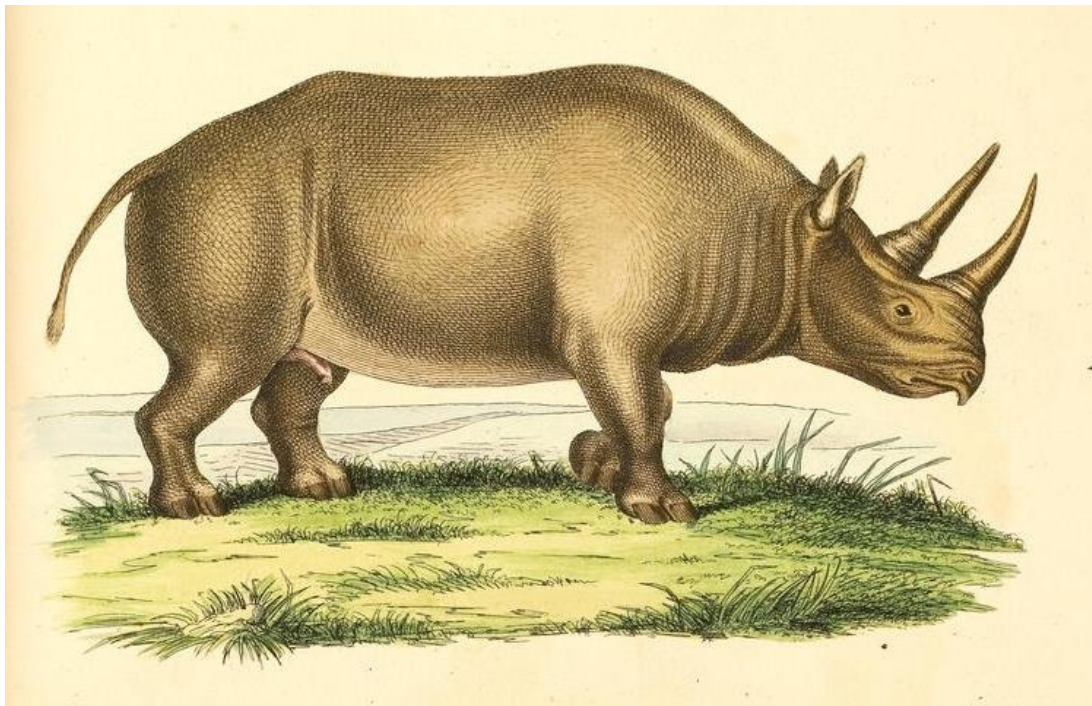
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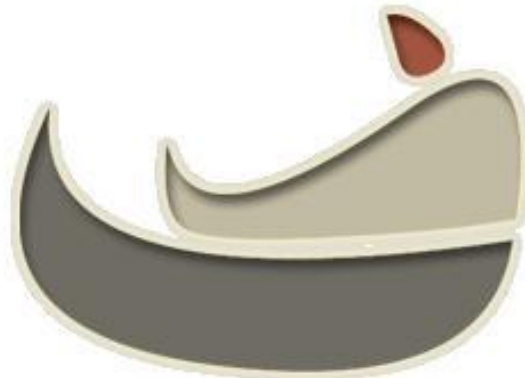
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